

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136037

NODIS
FOR VIETS FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IS

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST IN THE NATO COMMUNIQUE

REF: TEL AVIV 6821

1. AS PROMISED, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A FEEL FOR THE WEEKEND'S EXCHANGES WITH THE ISRAELIS AND AMONG OURSELVES OVER THE MIDDLE EAST SECTION OF THE NATO COMMUNIQUE.

2. IN SHORT, I THINK THE BEST LINE FOR YOU TO TAKE IN THE COURSE OF YOUR TUESDAY CONTACTS IS THE FOLLOWING: AT THE STAFF LEVEL IN PREPARATION FOR FINAL DRAFTING OF THE NATO COMMUNIQUE, THE U.S. CIRCULATED TWO FORMULATIONS. ONE WAS A GENERAL EXPRESSION OF GRATIFICATION THAT NEGOTIATIONS AIMING AT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT CONTINUE URGING THAT
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THE PARTIES REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, TO REACH A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. THE OTHER OFFERED THE LANGUAGE OF THE CENTO COMMUNIQUE AND OTHER PREVIOUS STATEMENTS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES IN THE SETTLEMENT IF THAT WERE DECIDED TO BE NECESSARY. WE HAVE NOT PRESSED THE LATTER BUT SIMPLY THOUGHT THAT RESPONSIBLE LANGUAGE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IF OUR NATO PARTNERS FELT IT

DESIRABLE TO GO INTO DETAIL. ALTHOUGH THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE IS ONLY NOW MEETING IN WASHINGTON, IT SEEMS

UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL WANT TO GET THAT SPECIFIC AND THEREFORE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANYTHING BUT VERY GENERAL LANGUAGE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THE PURPOSE OF TAKING THE ABOVE LINE IS TO SUGGEST THAT THIS IS NOT AN ACTIVE ISSUE.

3. FYI. IT MAY TURN OUT THAT THERE IS ENOUGH FEELING AMONG NATO PARTNERS AGAINST ANY COMMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THERE WILL BE NO PARAGRAPH AT ALL. IF SOMETHING IS SAID, IT WILL BE THE RESULT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE TWO FOLLOWING TEXTS WHICH ARE BEFORE THE DRAFTING GROUP: (A) QUOTE: HAVING CONSIDERED THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ALLIED LEADERS WERE GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT NEGOTIATIONS AIMING AT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA CONTINUE. THEY URGED THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, TO REACH A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. (U.S. TEXT.) END QUOTE. (B) QUOTE: HAVING CONSIDERED THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ALLIED LEADERS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EFFORTS AIMING AT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA WOULD CONTINUE. THEY URGED THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH A JUST AND LASTING PEACE ENDORSED BY ALL DIRECTLY INTERESTED PARTIES. END QUOTE.
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4. LANGUAGE WE OFFERED IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS TO BE ADDED TO OUR FORMULATION ABOVE WAS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 242 AND THE RESOLUTION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN A WAY THAT RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLES THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. END QUOTE. THIS IS THE FORMULATION THE ISRAELIS GOT WIND OF IN EUROPE. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE REVISED IT TO READ AS FOLLOWS SO AS TO TAKE ISRAELI CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT: QUOTE: THEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING NORMAL PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS, WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS TO SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 242, AND THE RESOLUTION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN A WAY THAT RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLES THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. END QUOTE.

5. AFTER REVIEWING ALL POSSIBILITIES, IT WAS DECIDED HERE MIDDAY MONDAY NOT TO PRESS THE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE. THE

DRAFTING COMMITTEE WOULD BE TOLD THAT WE HAD MADE IT AVAILABLE IN CASE NATO PARTNERS WERE INTERESTED IN GOING INTO DETAIL BUT WE WERE NOT PRESSING SPECIFIC LANGUAGE. END FYI.

6. SUGGEST YOU NOT GO INTO DETAIL BUT SIMPLY TAKE THE LINE THAT THIS WAS A STAFF EXERCISE, THAT WE HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT TO WIN NATO ACCEPTANCE OF LANGUAGE THAT CONCERNS THE ISRAELIS, AND THAT MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED IN NATO DRAFTING GROUP.

7. PRESS GUIDANCE WE ARE USING HERE MONDAY AFTERNOON IS AS FOLLOWS:

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Q - WHAT COMMENT DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ON PRESS REPORTS THAT THE NATO SUMMIT IS CONSIDERING FOR INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF ITS COMMUNIQUE ONE-SIDED LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE U.S. INIMICAL TO ISRAEL?

A - THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INACCURATE REPORTS ABOUT EXACTLY WHAT LANGUAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATO COMMUNIQUE. THE NATO DRAFTING COMMITTEE IS NOW MEETING TO WORK ON THE COMMUNIQUE AND THERE CAN BE NO ANSWER AS TO WHAT WILL BE IN THE COMMUNIQUE UNTIL THIS COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS WORK AND THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS CONSIDER IT TOMORROW.

Q - WHAT ARE THE INACCURACIES IN THE REPORTS?

A - ON BACKGROUND. PARAGRAPH ONE OF REUTERS 283, FOR EXAMPLE, REFERS TO "FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS." OBVIOUSLY THE U.S. DOES NOT INTEND TO CHANGE ITS 11-YEAR-OLD POSITION ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL UNDER RESOLUTION 242.

Q - HAS THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS?

A - WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELIS.

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